

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/806,545

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Applicant(s)

FUJITA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/25/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 15 and 17-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 25 July 2007 have been received and entered. Claims 1-13, 15 and 17-24 as amended are pending in the application.

2. Claims 1-7 were previously indicated as allowed, and claims 8-13, 15 and 17-24 were previously indicated as allowable subject matter in the office action dated 21 February 2007.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-13, 15 and 17-24 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches embedding identification information into image files associated with displayable images in order to prevent unauthorized redirecting from a displayed image. Each of the independent claims identifies the distinct feature of adding unique identification information to identify access to the image file when a user accesses the image file. The closest prior art, Iwamura U.S. Patent 6,807,285 and Hoyle U.S. Patent 6,141,010 teach the embedding of identification information to prevent unauthorized redirecting from a displayed image. In the case of the Iwamura reference, Iwamura teaches means for receiving a displayable image and related data to the displayable image (the apparatus is supplied, or receives a displayable image G and related data, such as public key information and embedding information) (Iwamura: column 5, lines 15-21 and lines 53-61); means for recording the displayable image into the image file (recording, or loading the image data and related information into a file format shown in Figure 11) (Iwamura:

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column 17, line 43-column 18, line 4); means for embedding unique identification information which uniquely identifies the image file into a non-displayable portion of the image file (embedding information that identifies the image such as image format identification data into the image header, which is not displayed when displaying the image from the image file) (Iwamura: column 17, line 58-column 18, line 4 and Figure 11); and means for preventing unauthorized redirecting from the displayable image by embedding the related data into the image file, which already includes the displayable image (embedding related data such as the watermark and confidential information into the image file comprising the image data G in order to prevent illegal copies or alteration/destruction of the image) (Iwamura: column 1, lines 33-48, column 5, lines 41-47 and column 6, lines 23-31). In the case of the Hoyle reference, Hoyle teaches pointers to at least one item of information enabling redirection from the displayable image to a site having the at least one item of information (the image file data sets comprise a number of user selectable links, or pointers, that will cause redirection to the corresponding URL site upon selection) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-49). However, the prior art teaches the identification information indicates the image format name, file size, image width, etc. and does not teach identification information that identifies access to the image file when a user accesses the image file. Therefore, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

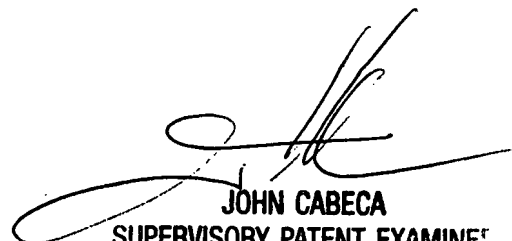
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100